



In this issue

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Cairo, Egypt

5-13 September 1994

"ICPD 94" newsletter, Number 18

August 1994

IN THIS ISSUE

1. The Road to Cairo: Creating a New Approach to Population and Development
2. News in Brief
3. Donors Step Up Support for Population Efforts
4. Informal Consultations Held
5. Hungary Hosts Meeting on ICPD
6. Parliamentarians to Meet in Cairo
7. News for the NGOs
8. Calendar of Upcoming Events

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The Road to Cairo

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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THE ROAD TO CAIRO:

CREATING A NEW APPROACH TO POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The formal opening of the International Conference on Population and Development in Egypt on 5 September marks the culmination of a remarkable process. For several years, a broad array of players -- Governments, international organizations and non-governmental groups -- have laboured to fashion a new global agreement to address some of the most urgent challenges facing humanity.

The fruit of their efforts is the ambitious, wide-ranging, 113-page draft Programme of Action which is to be finalized in intergovernmental negotiations at the Cairo International Conference Centre from 5-13 September. Its numerous proposed actions are considered crucial to achieving sustainable development with greater equity, in order to meet people's needs, today and in the long term.

A central theme is that efforts to slow population growth, reduce poverty, achieve economic progress, improve environmental protection, and reduce unsustainable consumption and production patterns are mutually reinforcing; consequently, all development policies and programmes need to incorporate population concerns.

The high level of interest in ICPD and its draft Programme -- as evidenced throughout the preparatory process and by the large turnout anticipated in Cairo -- is based on the realization that the actions taken, or not taken, over the next few years to address these interlinked issues will have a decisive impact on the quality of life of all living and future generations.

One measure of the recognition of ICPD's significance for the future is the participation of a number of heads of State or Government among the more than 180 national delegations expected to participate in the Conference. They include President Soeharto of Indonesia, President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives, Prime Minister Sergei Tereschenko of Khazakhstan, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway, Prime Minister Tansu Ciller of Turkey, Prime Minister Maxime Carlot Korman of Vanuatu, Prime Minister Kaamuta Laatasi of Tuvalu and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh.

Among the other dignitaries in attendance will be Queen Noor Al Hussein of Jordan, Vice President Al Gore of the United States, and the heads of most United Nations organizations and programmes, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees,

the UN Development Programme, the UN Children's Fund and the UN Environmental Programme.

Two of the major goals of the Conference are the empowerment of women -- a process which involves improving their status, health, education and employment prospects -- and the guarantee of choice in regard to family planning. Both are recognized as fundamental human rights. In addition, fulfilment of these rights is seen as key to reducing fertility rates world-wide and achieving early stabilization of the world's population. There are now nearly 5.7 billion people, and the number -- which is currently growing by over 90 million a year -- is projected to grow to between 7.8 billion and 12.5 billion by the year 2050, depending on actions taken over the next two decades.

The ICPD draft Programme of Action is "focused not on demographic targets, but on seriously addressing the health and education needs of individuals, especially of girls and women," according to Dr. Nafis Sadik, Secretary-General of the Conference. The document stresses that the provision of family planning should be part of a broader effort to meet overall reproductive health care needs, particularly of women. This is a significant shift in emphasis from the two international population conferences in 1974 and 1984. It reflects the growing international consensus that all population and development efforts need to be people-centred.

Recognizing that population and development are inseparable, the UN Economic and Social Council in 1991 explicitly linked the two for the first time when it decided on the name of the International Conference on Population and Development. The same year, as preparations for the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and

Development (UNCED) focused attention on how to achieve sustainable development, the first session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee resolved that population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development would be the themes of the Cairo Conference.

The ICPD draft Programme of Action builds upon the 1974 World Population Plan of Action adopted in Bucharest, and the 88 recommendations for its further implementation approved at the International Conference on Population in Mexico City in 1984.

It also builds on UNCED's outcomes, Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration, as well as on the agreement reached at the 1990 World Summit for Children and the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights. In turn, ICPD's emphasis on meeting people's needs and empowering women are already influencing preparations for the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the celebration of the United Nations' 50th anniversary, all scheduled to take place next year.

Of key importance in helping to shape the draft Programme were the recommendations made at five regional population conferences (for Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Arab States) in 1992 and 1993, and a number of subregional preparatory meetings; expert group meetings on six issues identified by ECOSOC as requiring the greatest attention; and a series of ad hoc round tables on other important Conference themes. Important input also came from the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee, from discussion in the UN General Assembly in 1993, and from national population reports prepared in more than 140 countries.

At its forty-eighth session in 1993, the General Assembly (in resolution 48/186) strongly endorsed ICPD by deciding to make the Preparatory Committee a subsidiary body of the Assembly, giving ICPD a status comparable to that of UNCED. Debate in the General Assembly's Second Committee on a proposed annotated outline of the Programme of Action further guided the Secretariat in preparing the draft final document for negotiation at the Preparatory Committee's third session (PrepCom III) in April 1994.

Delegations from over 170 countries took part PrepCom III, held at UN Headquarters in New York. Negotiation of the draft Programme of Action which will be finalized in Cairo was the central activity. Delegates reached agreement on well over 90 per cent of the wording of the last 14 chapters of the document. The Preamble (Chapter 1) and the Principles section (Chapter 2) remain subject to further negotiation at the Conference, along with the portions of Chapters 3-16 that were not agreed to and therefore remain within brackets.

To facilitate discussions on some of the remaining issues that were not resolved at PrepCom III, three half-day, informal meetings were held at UN Headquarters in July.

NGOs Are Actively Involved

The essential role of non-governmental organizations as vital partners with Governments in population and development efforts is recognized in Chapter 15 of the ICPD draft Programme, and the views expressed by NGOs have been most important to the elaboration of the document at every stage of its formulation.

NGOs have had unprecedented involvement in the ICPD process. There were an estimated 1,200 representatives from over 500 NGOs at PrepCom III. NGO representatives were members of a number of national delegations at PrepCom III, and are expected to be part of many delegations in Cairo.

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News in brief

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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NEWS IN BRIEF

The annual World Population Day was observed in more than 150 countries on 11 July. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reports that events marking the Day included rallies, speeches by national and local leaders, lectures, print and electronic media programmes and newspaper supplements, exhibitions and sports events.

In a statement issued for the occasion, UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Nafis Sadik, who is also Secretary-General of ICPD, declared: "World Population Day reminds us that the future depends on reaching a balance between numbers and natural resources. It is a day to recognize what we need to do to make the future secure for generations to come." That is also the goal of the Cairo Conference, she noted.

World Population Day was first observed in 1987 when the

earth's population reached 5 billion people. In 1988, UNFPA's Governing Council designated the Day for annual observance on 11 July, and the United Nations specified it as a vehicle for building awareness of population issues in relationship to development and the environment.

*

The gap between rich and poor has grown sharply in the past 30 years. According to recently released information from the UN Development Programme's 1994 Human Development Report and from the OECD Development Assistance Committee, the richest 20 per cent of the world's population has 60 times the income of the poorest 20 per cent. In 1962, the richest 20 per cent had 30 times the income of the poorest 20 per cent.

*

"Less than 2 per cent of government spending in the developing world -- and less than 2 per cent of all international aid -- is currently devoted to family planning programmes," reports Margaret Catley-Carlson in the UN Children's Fund annual publication, The Progress of Nations. The book features an essay on population by Ms. Catley-Carlson, President of the Population Council, entitled "The Decisive Decade".

"For all the rapid progress made in recent decades," the author writes, "the world-wide family planning effort is ... desperately inadequate." By the year 2000, "almost all of the other indicators of well-being used in The Progress of Nations --

including health, nutrition, education, and progress for women -- would show a very substantial improvement if the goal of universal family planning availability were to be met.

"It is always important to acknowledge ... that every child born into the industrialized world consumes 20 to 30 times as much of the world's resources in a lifetime as a child born into the developing world and that current consumption patterns in the North pose the greatest immediate threat to the biosphere. But this does not mean that we can ignore the fact that rapid population growth in the South is already degrading the environment and undermining the economic prospects of many hundreds of millions of people."

In addition to meeting the current demand for family planning services, Ms. Catley-Carlson stresses the need to "create the conditions which will increase the demand for smaller families. Briefly, those conditions include rising incomes, falling child death rates, rising levels of female education, progress towards gender equality, and the widespread availability of the kind of family planning services in which people can have confidence."

*

Coinciding with its live coverage of ICPD, the Turner Broadcasting System's Cable News Network will devote over a week of programming to population issues headlined "Beyond the Numbers".

Scheduled programmes include: "Earth Matters" on 28 August at 2:30 pm (Eastern Daylight Time), continuing a series begun on 11 and 17 July, on population issues in Jamaica, India and the Philippines; "CNN's Real News for Kids", on 3 September at 8:30 am,

a children's perspective on what ICPD hopes to accomplish and the global concerns which will be discussed in Cairo; "CNN Futures Watch", 3 September at 4:30 pm and 3:30 am, a report on the materials, design, manufacture, marketing and use of condoms as the primary reason for their use shifts from family planning to disease prevention; and "CNN Travel Guide", 4 September at 8:30 am, a report on how populations cope in big cities.

Turner's TBS Superstation network will air two hours of specials devoted to issues of population, consumption and development on 29 August at 8 pm. "People Count", hosted by Jane Fonda, will include "The Facts of Life", examining the relationship between human numbers and dwindling resources in West Africa, Japan, Mexico, Bangladesh, Ghana, Brazil and the United States; "Facts of the Heart", focusing on individuals around the world who are addressing such development issues as family planning and the empowerment of women through education, job opportunities and television; and "Facts of the Mind", exploring whether the human brain can comprehend such long-term challenges as population or species extinction.

Both TBS Superstation's "Network Earth" (11 September at 11 pm) and CNN will present a special summary report on ICPD, entitled, "Sex, God and Politics".

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Donors increase support

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DONORS PROMISE INCREASED SUPPORT FOR POPULATION EFFORTS

Increased support from the international community is a critical requirement if the actions proposed in the ICPD Programme of Action are to be implemented. In the months leading up to the Cairo Conference, a number of donor countries have acknowledged the need for additional funding; some have already indicated their willingness and plans to provide additional funds for population-related programmes.

At the 8-9 July summit of seven major industrial nations, held in Naples, the assembled heads of State and Government issued a communique which, among other things, strongly endorsed ICPD:

"We welcome the economic progress of many developing countries," the Group of Seven leaders declared. "We are concerned, however, by the stagnation and continued poverty in some countries, particularly in Africa. Since rapid population growth has

aggravated poverty in many countries, we stress the importance of a positive outcome of the Cairo Conference on Population and Development. ...

"We call on the World Bank as well as the regional development banks to strengthen their efforts to reinforce private capital flows to the developing world while providing growing resources for health, education, family polices and environmental protection," the statement added.

According to the communique, next year's summit of the Group of Seven will focus on the challenge of providing sustainable development and prosperity for the world's peoples and nations.

The European Union is about to announce a 15-fold increase in aid for population-related development activities, the Inter Press Service reported on 10 June. According to the report, the Union has prepared a paper to present at ICPD which will pledge \$347 million a year to developing countries by the year 2000, compared with the current annual spending level of \$23 million.

An increased percentage of the Union's population-related assistance, which includes support for distribution of contraceptives and information about family planning, will go to sub-Saharan Africa. Half of the budget is to come from the Lome Convention, covering trade and aid between the European Union and 70 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

In London on 11 July, Baroness Lynda Chalker of the Overseas Development Administration announced that Britain would increase

funding for population activities by up to 100 million pounds over two years, a 65 per cent increase over current aid levels.

The United States and Japan had each previously announced major increases in their assistance to population-related programmes, and Germany has put the international community on notice that it will announce a new level of funding at the Cairo Conference.

In Washington on 29 June, President Bill Clinton told the National Academy of Sciences that at ICPD his Government "will join the international community in launching new, high-quality, voluntary family planning and reproductive health programmes. Our goal is to make these programmes available to every citizen in the world by early in the next century."

Mr. Clinton's speech coincided with the release of a U.S. State Department position paper on the Cairo Conference, which it called "a crucial milestone on our long journey towards population stabilization and sustainable development." The paper notes that "both developed and developing countries have renewed their commitment to provide resources for family planning, health and human development programmes."

And the U.S. Senate in July voted to allocate \$450 million request for family planning programmes in fiscal year 1995, including \$60 million for the UN Population Fund. An additional \$121 million will be devoted to prevention and control of HIV/AIDS. The Clinton administration has requested \$585 million for family planning and reproductive health programmes in fiscal 1995, a \$83 million increase over 1994.

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Informal talks held

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INFORMAL TALKS HELD ON ICPD DRAFT PROGRAMME

Three informal consultations on ICPD were held at UN Headquarters in July, to allow further exchanges of information aimed at facilitating the early resolution in Cairo of outstanding issues. Each meeting dealt with a different set of issues in the ICPD draft Programme of Action on which final agreement was not reached at the third session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee (PrepCom III).

These consultations had no formal status. Rather, they provided an additional opportunity for delegations, including those from the Group of 77 and the European Union to receive updated information from the ICPD Secretariat, and to state their views on the issues at hand and on the wording proposed in the draft Programme, so that language acceptable to nearly all countries might be developed as soon as possible.

Several countries took responsibility for facilitating

discussion on each of the three areas of focus: Canada for the draft Programme's Preamble (Chapter 1) and Principles (Chapter 2); Indonesia for discussion on proposed quantitative goals; and the Netherlands for discussion on the level of resources required to implement proposed actions in reproductive health including family planning, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS, and data/policy analysis.

The first of these informal meetings, on the Preamble and Principles, took place 13 July, chaired by Canada. The discussion addressed the drafts of Chapters 1 and 2 of the draft Programme of Action, which were prepared by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee during PrepCom III. As there was not enough time at the PrepCom for adequate discussion of these two chapters, it was agreed that both will be further discussed and negotiated in Cairo.

Several speakers, including Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 (comprising more than 120 developing countries), expressed the view that the number of principles (15) in Chapter 2 was too high; but there was no consensus on this point. There was evident agreement that a reordering of the current principles might be desirable. India reported that it is drafting an alternative version of Chapter 2 with fewer principles.

The document's references to human rights and the right to development came in for some discussion. Algeria suggested there should be more balance between the two, while the European Union expressed the opinion that human rights are an indispensable part of development.

Representatives of a number of Governments then offered various comments on each of the 15 principles in the current draft of Chapter 2.

Discussion of the Preamble followed. Most speakers favoured shortening this chapter. A number of specific proposals to accomplish this were presented. Several speakers said that if, as seems likely, a Cairo Declaration is presented for adoption by ICPD, a more concise Preamble would be appropriate for the Programme of Action.

On 14 July, Indonesia chaired a discussion on goals. In opening remarks, ICPD Secretary-General Dr. Nafis Sadik recalled that there are three types of goals in the ICPD draft Programme of Action: (1) expanded access to reproductive health care, including family planning information and services; (2) greater access to education, particularly for women and girls; and (3) reductions in infant, child and maternal mortality.

Experience of other UN organizations such as the World Health Organization and the UN Children's Fund has shown the value of having goals in programmes and plans of action, both as motivators as tools to monitor progress, she said. The ICPD goals, she noted, are related to those of the 1990 World Summit for Children, the 1978 Alma Ata Conference on Primary Health Care and the 1990 Jomtien Conference on Education for All by the Year 2000. And the ICPD goals will, in turn, be used for the 1995 Social Summit and the Fourth World Conference on Women.

To monitor progress, she added, Chapter 16 proposes to establish and strengthen multi-purpose monitoring and reporting

systems at the country level as part of the follow-up to ICPD.

Dr. Sadik made a strong plea to focus attention on maternal mortality, since this is a critical area where the gap between developed and developing countries is currently the widest.

In the remarks, that followed, there appeared to be general agreement on the value of including quantitative goals in the areas concerned, and on the importance of a goal for reducing maternal mortality. Some countries said they were not sure that all the goals cited are achievable.

During discussion of goals in reproductive health care including family planning, Dr. Sadik pointed out that the draft Programme emphasizes that these goals can be reached in the context of strengthening primary health care, with only a modest level of additional input required.

The discussion on resources took place on 15 July; it was chaired by the Netherlands. A representative of the UN Population Fund reported on the methodology used to estimate the resources that would be required to provide the package of services related to reproductive health and population.

A number of speakers noted with approval recent indications that donor countries are willing to increase support in these areas. Colombia observed that the amounts being discussed are relatively small compared to those needed for most other important undertakings that are being addressed by the United Nations and the international community.

The United States, supported by Canada, proposed that estimated costs specifically for family planning be separated from the estimates of resources needed for improvements in infrastructure for reproductive health care.

There was some discussion of the proposed recommendation that at least 20 per cent of countries' public-sector expenditures and 20 per cent of official development assistance be devoted to social sectors; a number of countries suggested this proposal was more appropriately addressed in other international forums.

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Hungary hosts meeting

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HUNGARY HOSTS CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON ICPD

At the invitation of the Government of Hungary and with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the ICPD Secretariat, representatives of countries from Eastern and Central Europe and parts of Asia, generally referred to as "countries with economies in transition" (CEITs), met in Budapest from 19-20 July in preparation for the Cairo Conference.

Participants from 21 CEITs and government, intergovernmental and non-governmental observers were welcomed by Dr. György Vukovich, President of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, who was elected chairman of the Consultative Meeting. Three vice-chairs from Estonia, Georgia and Poland were elected.

Mr. Jyoti Shankar Singh, ICPD Executive Coordinator, and Mr. David Payton, Senior Adviser, ICPD, briefed the meeting on preparations for the Conference, focusing on the draft Programme of

Action negotiated during the third session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee. In the discussion that followed, the representatives expressed the need for delegations in Cairo to be well prepared, and to include representation from both government and non-governmental organizations.

In the afternoon session, Ms. Mehri Hekmati, Chief of UNFPA's Division for Arab States and Europe, briefly summarized some of the most common population problems in the region and gave an overview of UNFPA-supported projects there. Discussion then centred on the needs of countries in Eastern and Central Europe and the possibilities for further cooperation with UNFPA.

Throughout the meeting, participants acknowledged that while the countries of the region have common population and development concerns, there are significant variations in the experiences and situations of different subregions. They agreed that this diversity should be respected when the countries cooperate at the Cairo Conference and elsewhere. There was strong agreement on the need for coordination of work during the Conference, particularly in the Main Committee negotiations.

Dr. Nafis Sadik, Secretary-General of ICPD and Executive Director of UNFPA, addressed the final session. She emphasized the important contribution participants had made to the ICPD preparatory process, and encouraged them to continue their strong support for the aims of the Conference.

A report of the Consultative Meeting was prepared by the Chairman and discussed at the final session. Copies are available

from the ICPD Secretariat.

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Parliamentarians to meet

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PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING TO PRECEDE ICPD

Several international and regional organizations of parliamentarians concerned with population and development issues will meet at Cairo's Meridien Hotel 3-4 September to discuss issues that will be addressed by ICPD and to prepare strategies for fostering the implementation of the Conference Programme of Action.

The International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development will be convened by the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development, the International Medical Parliamentarians Organization, the Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, and Parliamentarians for Global Action.

After an introductory ceremony and keynote address, working group sessions will be held on: gender equality and empowerment of

women; health and mortality; reproductive rights and family planning; resource mobilization; and parliamentary actions at national, regional, interregional and global levels. Participants will adopt a Cairo Declaration at the close of the session.

Parliamentary groups and individual parliamentarians have been actively involved in preparations for ICPD. A number of parliamentarians took part in the three sessions of the ICPD Preparatory Committee, and many others have served on national committees formed in preparation for the Conference.

Many of the participants in the parliamentarians' meeting are expected to remain in Cairo to participate in ICPD, working with and in many cases as members of national delegations to the Conference.

It is also anticipated that parliamentarians will play a crucial role in the follow-up to ICPD and the implementation of the Programme of Action. In addition to the formulation and revision of national legislation, parliamentarians can help to mobilize public support for the aims of the Conference, and to increase resource allocations to population activities and related social-sector areas such as education and primary health care.

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News for NGOs

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NEWS FOR THE NGOS

FROM THE NGO PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THE ICPD

Registration for the NGO Forum '94 will be held on 31 August and 1-5 September, from 9 am to 7 pm. From 6 September onward, registration will be held from 9 am to 2 pm. Daily passes to the Forum will be available for \$10 (U.S.).

NGO registration for ICPD and the NGO Forum will be held at two separate sites, both at the Olympic Swimming Pool facility, located next to Salah Salem Street, Nasr City, Cairo. This complex is five minutes by car both from the Cairo International Conference Centre where ICPD will take place, and from the Forum site, the Covered Stadium Complex. Members of ICPD-accredited non-governmental organizations must register at both sites to gain access to both the Forum and ICPD. Separate access badges will be required for each facility.

Accredited members of the news media and official delegates to the Conference will be able to enter the NGO Forum with their ICPD access badges, however.

The NGO Planning Committee intends to produce a roster of NGO Forum '94 participants by a day or two after the Forum opens. This book will be available for a nominal fee to cover printing costs.

There will be an informal message centre at the Forum where participants may leave messages for other participants. Those attending the Forum are asked to remember to check with the centre to receive their messages. Members of the press may also use this facility to arrange interviews with Forum participants.

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Calendar of events

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

22 August-2 September 1994

United Nations Headquarters,
New York

Second session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit
for Social Development.

31 August-4 September 1994

International Scout Centre
Cairo, Egypt

Youth Consultation for the International Conference on Population
and Development.

3-4 September 1994

Meridien Hotel
Cairo, Egypt

International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and

Development.

3-4 September 1994

Cairo International Conference Centre

Cairo, Egypt

Pre-Conference intergovernmental consultations.

4-13 September 1994

Covered Stadium Complex

Cairo, Egypt

NGO Forum '94

5-13 September 1994

Cairo International Conference Centre

Cairo, Egypt

International Conference on Population and Development.

Mid-September-mid-December 1994

United Nations Headquarters,

New York

49th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Consideration of the Report of the International Conference on
Population and Development.

16-17 January 1995

United Nations Headquarters,

New York

Third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit
for Social Development.

6-12 March 1995

Copenhagen, Denmark

World Summit for Social Development.

26 June 1995

San Francisco, USA

Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the
United Nations Charter.

4-15 September 1995

Beijing, China

Fourth World Conference on Women.

22-24 October 1995

United Nations Headquarters

New York

Special commemorative meeting of the United Nations General
Assembly on the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

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